

House Republican Press Release

June 9, 2006

Press Office: 860-240-8700

Gov. Rell, Rep. Hovey: \$275,000 STEAP Grant Okayed for Utility Upgrades at Fairfield Hills



The State Bond Commission today approved funding in the amount of \$275,000 to pay for utility upgrades on the grounds of the former Fairfield Hills Hospital in Newtown, Governor M. Jodi Rell and state Representative DebraLee Hovey, R-112th District, announced today.

The funding is provided through the state's Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP). The grant was approved at today's Bond Commission meeting.

"This project is part of Newtown's overall long-term economic enhancement plan and will help the town attract those interested in investing in and developing the Fairfield Hills campus," said Governor Rell. "Making funding available for projects like this is an excellent illustration of the strong partnership between the state and our local governments. I am pleased that we can make these monies available."

"The project will benefit the entire town by increasing the tax base and generating new revenues. The redevelopment of the Fairfield Hills hospital campus will create new jobs and provide new passive recreation and open space areas for the enjoyment of the entire community. It is a diamond in the rough for Newtown residents and Governor Rell deserves our thanks for supporting this important project," said Representative Hovey, who represents part of Newtown.

The project will include water, sewer, storm drain and electrical upgrades on the sprawling campus, which the town has purchased from the state. The town envisions a variety of retail and recreation opportunities on the grounds of the old state hospital.